

Burdens or solutions? Sustainable Development in Conflict-Affected Arab Countries in Focus



July 2023



Introduction

Long-standing conflicts, internal clashes, and ongoing turmoil represent a tragic reality of some countries in the Arab world, where conflicts are exacerbating, casting a shadow over all development endeavors. As a result, such unfortunate countries are now suffering from the long-term effects that have impacted all dimensions and sectors. Amidst absence of peace and lack of stability, which are key to development in all societies, a structural crisis that is going to undermine all development plans and agendas in conflict societies and beyond is brewing.

This study aims to conduct an in-depth assessment survey of the impact of wars and internal conflicts on the development paths in 4 of the conflict countries in the Arab world, namely the Republic of Yemen, which has experienced 9 years of prolonged conflict, the Syrian Arab Republic, which is plagued by 12 years of conflict and civil war, and the State of Libya, which is entering the 12th year of conflict, and the Republic of Sudan, where a fierce internal conflict erupted in April 2023.

Prolonged conflicts and crises raise questions about the extent of commitment to achieving sustainable development in all their dimensions in the conflict-affected countries in the Arab world, especially in light of the absence of a national road map in such countries at a time when development paths are moving at an accelerated pace in the rest of the world. This discrepancy creates a development gap between the countries of the Arab region, and is expected to threaten and slowdown overall development efforts in all countries of the region, not only the conflict-affected ones.

On the sidelines of the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), which has a central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, and which theme is **“Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”**, and is going to focus on SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights is releasing a study entitled **“Burdens or solutions?... Sustainable Development in Conflict-Affected Arab Countries in Focus”** in order to highlight the conditions of sustainable development in the conflict-affected Arab countries, specifically Yemen , Syria, Libya, Sudan, in light of the goals of concern to the Forum this year.

Axis I: Development Goals of Concern in Conflict Countries

First: Background on the development goals under consideration

Although conflicts may disrupt sustainable development goals, this study will focus on tracking the impact of the conflict on development paths in Arab societies by assessing 5 sustainable development goals; namely, SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy, SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and SDG 17 on Partnerships for the Goals.

The selection of such five goals in particular reflects the development priorities that are focused on during the 2023 High-level Political Forum on sustainable development in its 2023 edition in July, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, without prejudice to the integrated and indivisible nature of the SDGs.

Second: Sustainable development goals (SDGs) in conflict countries...between progress and challenges

a. SDG 6... Ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Although the number of people deprived of an improved and pure water source in the world has decreased by half over the past 25 years, many countries of the world, especially the conflict countries in the Arab region, continue to suffer greatly in terms of providing the public with clean and improved water sources. Water supply is crucial in conflict-affected areas not only for meeting the population's needs, but also for supporting sanitation services, combating climate change, and supporting a wide range of activities within Arab communities.

SDG 6 does not only see the crisis of available water resources as a simple crisis of the resource's availability. Recently, the concept has been expanded to include its relationship with climate change, water resource management, sanitation, and challenges related to water scarcity and quality. In this context, there have been many efforts by each State to achieve the various targets of the goal.

Target 1	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
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With regard to achieving SDG 6.1, in Yemen, most of the population suffers from serious repercussions of the water shortage crisis, which drives the population in several areas of Yemen to rely on water tanks and trucks to provide for their needs, despite their rusty and unclean conditions, as well as high cost of these sources, which are subject to changes in market prices. However, between 2021 and 2023, Yemen witnessed a set of projects aimed at supporting equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

It is important to note that projects to solve Yemen's severe water shortage have been halted as long-term development plans are replaced by much-needed aid programs directed by donors and workers inside Yemen¹. Based on this, it can be noted how the development efforts to deal with the water crisis are slow and almost non-existent at the official government level. In this context, the Ministry of Environment and Water has primarily directed its efforts towards engaging in discussions with international donors and partners, including organizations like the World Bank and UNICEF, regarding their projects within the Yemeni water sector.

Moreover, **the absence of plans by donors and external actors to tackle the acute water crisis in Yemen is highly significant. This is compounded by the lack of governmental efforts to address the crisis and provide society with essential water resources, amidst the prevailing political instability in the country,** which has been reflected negatively in the efforts of the actors, which have had a limited impact being unilateral, unfair, and unable to meet the urgent water needs of Yemeni citizens in the absence of comprehensive systematic reform efforts and steps².

Yemen's efforts to address the worsening water crisis were inadequate compared to the urgency of the crisis. **The most prominent of these efforts are; the signing of the Governor of Aden on construction contracts for 10 development projects** operating in the water and sanitation sector in the country with Emirati support and financing, as the two sides will work together to operate these projects with the aim of supporting the water needs of the city's residents³.

During 2023, **the delegation of the Republic of Yemen participated in the 13th International Conference of the Islamic Network** for the Development and Management of Water Resources in the Jordanian capital, Amman, in what is

¹ Long-term projects halted in Yemen water crisis, Gulf, <http://bitly.ws/KRVf>

² The Economic Recovery of Yemen, Sada, <http://bitly.ws/KVpx>

³ محافظ عدن يوقع عقود 10 مشاريع، سبوتنيك، <http://bitly.ws/KVCy>

considered one of the most important steps to break the siege imposed on Yemen and to enhance ways to discuss the best ways to manage water resources in the country⁴.

As for the situation in Syria, despite the long years of conflict that caused a major shortage and pollution of water resources, the Syrian government's efforts to deal with the crisis were very active in various parts of Damascus.

During 2020, **the Syrian Ministry of Water Resources sought to solve the water scarcity crisis in some areas affected by the internal conflict, as it worked to secure clean and safe water for the internal Syrian communities and improve access to drinking water**, drilling 253 wells was completed; 25 water tanks were maintained; and the refurbishment of 312 kilometers of water systems. In addition, 254 water pumps were maintained and supplied, 55 electric generating sets were installed for water stations, and 153 different contracts were implemented in the field of water supplies; these improvements amounted to about 37 billion Syrian pounds⁵.

A group of the most important drinking water projects that were supported are represented in the Damascus countryside, where wells were equipped in the Damascus countryside and Eastern Ghouta, and a drinking water purification plant was established in Autaya, and the drinking water networks were replaced in towns such as Lenabek, Hala, Qalaat Jandal, Jeroud, and Ras al-Maara. In addition to extending new water networks to serve modern residential communities, equipping 9 wells in Sumariya and connecting them to a reservoir with a capacity of 7,200 cubic meters, while rehabilitating and equipping 25 water pumping centers in the countryside of Aleppo has been completed⁶.

As for the governorates of Aleppo and Homs, they witnessed many important projects. In Aleppo, 25 water pumping centers were rehabilitated and equipped in the Aleppo countryside. Water pumping lines were extended from the Al-Fayed station to the Tishreen reservoir, and the water networks were extended in Sheikh Zayat, Najjar and Kafr Dhagir. Improving the water networks in the city of Nubl and equipping the wells of Al-Zahra and Shguidalia⁷.

⁴ اليمين يشارك في المؤتمر الدولي للتنمية وإدارة مصادر المياه في الأردن، سبأ نت، <http://bitly.ws/KRUb>

⁵ الموارد المائية 2020.. مشاريع لتحسين واقع مياه الشرب وتأهيل مشاريع الري واستصلاح الأراضي، سانا، <http://bitly.ws/Kxg9>

⁶ op.cit,3

⁷ op.cit,4



The year 2021 witnessed the completion of efforts to replace the old water systems or (network) in the Al-Ghab area and the Al-Khandaq-Al-Hurra network, and work was resumed on the cross-water line at the Ain Al-Krum junction, which is one of the projects that will deal with the problem of water distribution in villages that were largely dominated by thirst in Syria. The Ministry worked to rehabilitate and invest in the Halawa mountain mill reservoir and to implement a well to be pumped from the Tahun well. The project to replace the village networks of Bamrah and Diliba Waq Dukar has been completed and is back in service, a project that will serve 1,200 subscribers⁸.

In 2023, the General Corporation for Drinking Water and Sanitation installed horizontal pumping systems that have a capacity of 80 cubic meters/hour, which reduces the time for water distribution in villages that suffer from water shortages⁹. The Corporation also started implementing a reservoir in the village of Fadra with a capacity of 200 cubic meters, which would serve 500 citizens¹⁰.

The year 2023 is considered one of the years in which the irrigation and drinking water system was most adversely affected by the earthquake that struck Syrian territory and its aftermath. Many water tanks on rooftops have been destroyed, increasing pressure on the existing water systems in Syrian cities.

In Libya, the water crisis is the largest and most influential crisis in Libyan reality; Citizens face a crisis of scarcity and high-water pricing as they move towards privatization of the transport service and control of water resources¹¹. However, **Libyan efforts to deal with the problem** have been severely constrained by political and security instability and the ensuing crisis that has dominated all sectors and decisions of the Libyan Government.

In 2021, the Government cut off water supplies to large areas in various cities after threats by armed men to sabotage the artificial river water system. In addition, the river has been subjected to attacks by the population, which has dispersed national efforts from development work aimed at the legal and security protection of water sources. This clearly delays the course of development operations in the Libyan water sector¹².

⁸ إنجاز مشاريع لمياه الشرب في حماه، وزارة الموارد المائية، سوريا، فيسبوك، <http://bitly.ws/KW7u>

⁹ مؤسسة مياه اللاذقية، سوريا، فيسبوك، <http://bitly.ws/KWe4>

¹⁰ مؤسسة مياه اللاذقية، وزارة الموارد المائية، سوريا، <http://bitly.ws/KWdw>

¹¹ السياسة المائية في ليبيا: أزمة إدارة وليست أزمة ندرة، مبادرة الإصلاح العربي، <http://bitly.ws/KxHg>

¹² أعجوبة العالم الثامنة "النهر الصناعي الليبي العظيم" المهتدد بالتخريب، بي بي سي عربية، <http://bitly.ws/KxLm>



It was also revealed during 2021 that the Libyan Government of National Accord refused to work on the Libyan Sea Water Desalination Plant project, one of the promising projects in resolving the Libyan water scarcity crisis. However, the Council did not reveal any alternatives in light of the exacerbation of the water crisis¹³.

In 2022, the course of the Libyan water work witnessed turmoil between progress and decline, while the Interim Government of National Unity announced its intention to re-work the “Libya of Tomorrow” projects that have been suspended since 2011, which include projects for the maintenance of water desalination plants, the renewal and the construction of a pumping station¹⁴. However, it did not support, with any governmental or diplomatic efforts, the unremitting efforts of UNICEF to rehabilitate water and sanitation facilities in Libyan cities, which led to a significant delay in funding for activities aimed at supporting water networks that UNICEF called for support, as the incoming funds covered only 22% of the total funding required to support the sector drinking water.

In Sudan; Despite Sudan's territory being crossed by three of the world's largest freshwater rivers, the country is facing a severe water scarcity crisis, along with the strain on water distribution networks that leads to cracks, frequent mixing with stagnant water, with the old number of water stations¹⁵, which threatened more than half of Sudan's population with serious health consequences resulting from water pollution, such as malaria, cancers, kidney failure, typhoid fever and diarrhea¹⁶.

However, efforts to address the water crisis in Sudan have been hindered by a lack of a clear reform strategy, and the most prominent efforts were directed to implement a program to provide insufficient water supplies in the areas of Khartoum¹⁷. At a time when no efforts have been directed towards supporting and improving dilapidated water distribution systems that cause disease transmission to citizens, despite the prevalence of water diseases in Sudan costing them \$480 million a year while the government's rehabilitation and purification of water systems will cost them far less¹⁸.

With the outbreak of the conflict at the beginning of April 2023, the Sudanese water sector was severely affected, which began a water shortage crisis in areas close to the

¹³ محطة تحلية المياه في طرابلس.. مشروع لم يرَ النور، فواصل، <http://bitly.ws/KxMf>

¹⁴ حكومة الوحدة المؤقتة تعيد العمل في مشروعات “ليبيا الغد”، الجماهيرية، <http://bitly.ws/KxNp>

¹⁵ أسعار باهظة وهيئة بلا سند.. الخرطوم تعاني شح المياه في رمضان والحلول في رحم الغيب، الجزيرة، <http://bitly.ws/KFKy>

¹⁶ تلوث المياه في السودان يهدد بتداعيات صحية خطيرة، سكاى نيوز عربية، <http://bitly.ws/KFAw>

¹⁷ توجهات ولائية بسرعة توفير المياه لمناطق جنوب الخرطوم، سودان برس، <http://bitly.ws/KFvS>

¹⁸ تلوث المياه في السودان يهدد بتداعيات صحية خطيرة، سكاى نيوز عربية، <http://bitly.ws/KFAw>



clashes. However, the government in Sudan is making efforts to keep the water sector somewhat stable. One of their main efforts is Securing the manpower in the maintenance of water station malfunctions to continue their efforts to restore the stations for services. Rapid Support Forces participated by their efforts to help water engineers to reconnect water supply lines to populated neighborhoods in various Sudanese villages, and a number of Omdurman neighborhoods, and it also revealed their efforts to repair malfunctions and defects in the marine water station¹⁹.

At the field level; Rapid support teams were involved in providing water and food resources to a variety of actors, including hospitals, nursing homes and the elderly in the capital, Khartoum.

Target 2

Universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene

With regard to the Target of **universal access to sanitation and hygiene services**, in Yemen over 9 years of conflict, 22 million Yemenis faced a crisis in accessing sanitation and personal hygiene facilities, however, Yemen's efforts to address the sanitation crisis were not sufficient to keep up with the severity of the crisis. The most prominent governmental efforts during the year 2023 was the meeting of the Foundation for Water and Sanitary Sanitation in the Yemeni capital Sana'a to discuss the functioning of the institution and ways to improve and enhance the provision of the institution's services to citizens. A series of sanitation projects funded by international partners were also discussed and reviewed as well as coordination procedures²⁰.

The Yemeni Bani Al-Harith Directorate also witnessed a meeting that included members of the local council and the director of the local water and Sanitation Corporation. The meeting discussed the conditions of sewage treatment plants in Bani Al-Harith, and ways to strengthen the obstacles facing the municipality's sewage networks²¹.

In Syria; During 2020, the Syrian Ministry of Water Resources made great efforts in the field of sanitation projects, as the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources worked on implementing many water treatment plants and establishing sewage outfalls and new lines, to remove pollution from water sources and protect the environment in Damascus. As part of this, the city of Homs has witnessed many important projects, as

¹⁹ قوات الدعم السريع: نواصل جهود تحسين الأوضاع وتوفير مياه الشرب والخدمات للمواطنين، RT، <http://bitly.ws/KZzR>

²⁰ مناقشة سير عمل المؤسسة المحلية للمياه والصرف الصحي بأمانة العاصمة، سبأ نت، <http://bitly.ws/KZnL>

²¹ اجتماع بمديرية بني الحارث يناقش أوضاع محطة معالجة الصرف الصحي، اليمن، <http://bitly.ws/KZok>



the sewage networks were replaced in the Al-Waleed suburb, in addition to that, the trial operation of the Adra city treatment plant in the Damascene countryside was started, and it has returned to work at quarter of its operational capacity after a stoppage²².

While the Ministry has completed the implementation of the Deir Attia and Tarjanu stations in Lattakia and Tibneh in Daraa, and work has also been completed on the implementation of sewage treatment plants in each of Masyaf, Siano Al-Huwaiz, Kafr Rasas, Lattakia, Tartous Al-Qalaia Al-Dalba, Safita, Amra, Jamraya, Al-Hama, Yabroud, Jdeideh Al-Khass, Abu Hourri, Al-Burjan, and work has been completed on the sewage project in Al-Haffah, and the "C" sewage project and rain in Lattakia, and work on sewage outfalls in Al-Husayniyya, Al-Diyabiya, and Al-Kiswah in the countryside of Damascus²³.

The year 2023 witnessed a set of efforts, the most prominent of which was the direction of the General Sewerage Company towards the implementation of sewage lines in the city of Izraa and Sheikh Maskin, with a length of 900 meters, in cooperation with the Danish Council and the Triangle Organization²⁴. While the General Sewerage Company in Homs carried out a complete maintenance of the sewage line of Al-Irbad Bin Sariya Street, and pumping treatment was carried out for the faults of the line²⁵.

In Libya; The Government's efforts to provide sewage systems are the slowest among the conflict States. After a long period of inaction regarding the improvement of sanitation networks for the population and displaced individuals, the most prominent efforts of the Interim Government of National Unity were limited to its direction to return to work with the "Libya of Tomorrow" projects, which include A number of projects that have been suspended for more than a decade, and these projects included the construction of a sewage water purification plant, the renewal of lifting stations, and the construction of a pumping station in the city of Derna²⁶.

The year 2023 also witnessed the President of the Interim Government of National Unity, Abdul Hamid al-Dabiba, making recommendations in April regarding the

²² Op.cit, Water Resources 2020. Projects to improve the reality of drinking water and rehabilitate irrigation and land reclamation projects

²³ Op.cit, Water Resources 2020. Projects to improve the reality of drinking water and rehabilitate irrigation and land reclamation projects

²⁴ <http://bitly.ws/KWda>، وزارة الموارد المائية، سوريا، فيسبوك، صرف صحي درعا،

²⁵ <http://bitly.ws/KWeV>، وزارة الموارد المائية، سوريا، فيسبوك، صرف صحي حمص،

²⁶ op.cit, The Interim Unity Government Restarts Work on "Tomorrow's Projects"



need to work on launching a national project to maintain and develop the 24 Libyan wastewater treatment plants. However, there are no strategies, plans or projects announced so far²⁷.

This raises questions about the credibility of the Libyan interim government's will to reform, as these directives are not considered the first of their kind. During a meeting that included the Water Company and the Libyan Utilities Projects Authority, Al-Dabaiba previously discussed the status of sewage networks during the year 2022, and the meeting concluded to discuss the bad condition of the old sewage systems and they decided to create a plan to fix the old and broken sewage networks and to solve the main problems in the cities, and it was directed to implement a number of projects to improve sanitation, However, a year has passed and none of these plans have been done yet²⁸.

In Sudan; until 2022, about 92% of the 12 million population of Khartoum suffered from a lack of sanitation services, which cover very limited areas, causing severe environmental and health crises for the population. This crisis is due to the limited coverage offered by the current networks and the lack of developmental efforts by the authorities responsible for it. **The most prominent efforts made to deal with the crisis are limited and directed at very narrow areas in Sudanese society, which raises questions about what Sudan is waiting for to start working on a line or a national strategy to deal with sanitation as one of the vital problems in Sudanese society**²⁹.

The most prominent efforts in 2023 Hamditi implemented a five-year plan to solve the sewage issue in Khartoum State after the Khartoum State Development Conference held under the theme "Together for Renaissance of Khartoum." The Sewerage Authority continued its efforts to work at the main pumping station in Greater Bahri State in preparation for the opening of the sewage station there³⁰.

The most prominent efforts of the Sudanese Sanitation Authority revolve around requesting the supply of alternatives to some components of treatment plants and installing units to remove unpleasant odors.

²⁷ الذببية يؤكد ضرورة إطلاق مشروع وطني لصيانة محطات الصرف الصحي، الوسط، <http://bitly.ws/KZFF>

²⁸ الذببية يتابع مشروعات الصرف الصحي والاستعدادات لتصل الشتاء، الوسط، <http://bitly.ws/KZGs>

²⁹ أضرار بالغة.. 92 في المئة من سكان الخرطوم بلا شبكة صرف صحي، سكاى نيوز عربية، <http://bitly.ws/KFEY>

³⁰ جهود عملية في بحري الكبرى، هيئة الصرف الصحي، فيسبوك، <http://bitly.ws/KZL8>



b. Goal 7 -- Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All

Target 1	Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All
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With regard to achieving the target of **ensuring affordable access for all to reliable modern energy services**, in Yemen the energy sector has suffered greatly from **several problems**, the most prominent of which is the continuous decline in production capacity, with the increase in the number of power outage hours, which is reflected in the inability of citizens to practice life activities; in the absence of electricity, Either because of the destruction of the electricity grid infrastructure or because the grid no longer can generate enough electricity to reach those areas. However, what is remarkable is that the Yemeni efforts to resolve the energy crisis are active³¹.

In September 2021, at the government level; **A bilateral cooperation agreement** was signed between the Yemeni government represented by the governor of Aden and the government of the State of Kuwait to start a new project to provide solar energy for the city³², so that up to one million and four hundred thousand Yemeni citizens from the governorates of Aden and Lahij will benefit from the project. The project will also include the construction of a 1.5 km power station and the rehabilitation of the 11.6 km high-voltage network in the Bir Nasser field³³.

In 2022, Yemen, represented by the Yemeni Ministry of Electricity and Energy, signed an agreement to implement the project to establish the Aden plant, to be the largest solar energy station in Yemen, in partnership with the Emirati Masdar Company, the Saudi Program for Development and Reconstruction of Yemen, and the Arab Gulf Program for Development "AGFUND", with the aim of moving towards securing the needs of citizens need electricity at affordable prices, in light of the aging of traditional power plants and the significant increase in fuel prices³⁴.

In 2023, the Yemeni presidency inaugurated **8 solar energy projects worth 511 million riyals**, which would provide a clean source of energy for a number of vital

³¹ تعزيز إمكانية الحصول على الطاقة الشمسية بأسعار ميسورة في اليمن، البنك الدولي، <http://bitly.ws/KpLZ>

³² الكويت تقدم أكبر مشروع طاقة شمسية في اليمن لأبناء العاصمة، حيروت، <http://bitly.ws/Kq6w>

³³ بتمويل دولة الكويت ... افتتاح أكبر مشروع للمياه وإنتاج الكهرباء بالطاقة الشمسية في عدن، حيروت، <http://bitly.ws/Kq8j>

³⁴ معلومات عن أكبر محطة طاقة شمسية في اليمن، الطاقة، <http://bitly.ws/KpIT>



installations, financed by the Fund for the Support and Development of Al-Hadid Governorate and its adjacent areas on the western coast³⁵.

In Syria; Confusion dominated the Syrian efforts to deal with the electricity crisis, as "electrical rationing" in Syria led to a significant decline in the hours of electrical supply in various Syrian cities and governorates, where sometimes the supply takes place for two hours compared to 4 hours of electricity separation, which is disturbed according to the height or the decrease in demand during the different seasons is reflected in the form of a double electric deficit. In this context, the Syrian government has lost a number of efforts, including³⁶:

In July 2020, the Syrian city of Al-Suwayda witnessed the installation of a group of solar energy investors in the northwestern province of Tartous and the southern province of Sweida ³⁷. During 2021, **a national trend was revealed towards supporting investments in the field of alternative and renewable energy**, with the aim of solving the electricity problem. Therefore, the Syrian government provided a set of facilities to investors in the fields of alternative energy, and it also supported alternative energy projects with customs exemptions in the case of importing machinery, devices and equipment, Production lines and their service transport mediation, and a 50% tax exemption for a period of 10 years is imposed on alternative energy projects³⁸. The Syrian Ministry of Electricity also signed an agreement with with a coalition of Emirati companies aimed at constructing a 300-megawatt, with the aim of establishing solar power plant with a capacity of 300 megawatts in the Spring Valleys area near the Tishreen power station in the Damascene countryside³⁹.

Temporary licenses have also been granted for 3 investment projects in solar panel power and electricity generation, and the value of the projects, along with two other projects, has been estimated at tens of billions of lire, which will be pumped into a range of sectors, foremost among which is the energy sector, which will help resolve the power outage crisis⁴⁰.

The year 2022 witnessed one of Syria's most important steps in overcoming the electricity shortage crisis the announcement of the first phase of the operation of the

³⁵ افتتاح مشاريع طاقة شمسية ومياه في الحديدة بتكلفة تزيد عن 511 مليون ريال، وزارة المالية اليمنية، <https://mof.gov.ye/?p=2191>

³⁶ الطاقة النظيفة.. هل تكون مخرجاً لسوريا من أزمة الكهرباء؟، سكاى نيوز عربية، <http://bitly.ws/KqyW>

³⁷ تحقيق إخباري: الطاقة الشمسية.. مشروع واعد لدعم شبكات الكهرباء في سوريا، Arabic news، <http://bitly.ws/Kssi>

³⁸ الطاقة البديلة في سوريا.. تكاليف مرتفعة لا يمكن تحملها، عنب بلدي، <http://bitly.ws/KsGt>

³⁹ سوريا توقع اتفاقية مع تحالف إماراتي لتنفيذ محطة طاقة شمسية، الطاقة، <http://bitly.ws/KqFY>

⁴⁰ سوريا.. مشاريع جديدة بعشرات مليارات الليرات معظمها في الطاقة الشمسية، RT، <http://bitly.ws/KqBE>

photovoltaic solar project in Adra Industrial City, with a generation capacity of 10 megawatts of electricity generated through solar panels, so that the project will contribute to generating 100 megawatts of electricity when completed⁴¹. The ministry has also directed towards issuing a new law on renewable energy, as amendments to the law allow the ministry to purchase electricity from renewable energy sources to integrate it into the transmission and distribution networks⁴².

However, the confusion was represented in the failure to direct efforts towards providing alternative energy sources and systems at an affordable cost in light of the Syrian economic crisis. Despite the facilities provided by the Syrian Government, the reality of **the conflict and the resulting devaluation of the Syrian pound created a significant gap in the cost of installing solar panels** where the price per tablet is between one million and 750,000 pounds, The entire system, comprising 6 solar panels, batteries and Inverters, has a total value of 13 million Syrian pounds⁴³.

In Libya; Libya is actively trying to solve the energy crisis through various efforts. In August 2020, the Libyan Renewable Energy Authority (IRAOL) announced its new plan to build a renewable energy plant with a production capacity of 50 megawatts. The project aims to implement new energy generation technologies at local levels of consumption, compensate for the electricity shortage crisis and expand the capacity of the public grid⁴⁴.

The Libyan Ministry of Environment has also established a solar photovoltaic (PV) power station in the Kufra region, southeast of Cyrenaica, with a production capacity of 100 megawatts. The station is expected to contribute to securing the supply of Libyan electricity networks for the residents of Kufra⁴⁵.

In December 2021, the Libyan Renewable Energy Authority announced its intention to implement a package of alternative energy projects with a total capacity of 2000 megawatts by utilizing photovoltaic (PV) technologies over the coming years in partnership between the public and private sectors⁴⁶.

⁴¹ Ibid

⁴² مشاريع استثمارية ضخمة بمجال الطاقة المتجددة في طريقها إلى سوريا ووعود بتخفيف حدة التقنين الكهربائي!، طيف بوست، <http://bitly.ws/KsIN>

⁴³ غياب الكهرباء.. كم تبلغ تكلفة تركيب الطاقة الشمسية بمناطق سيطرة النظام؟، شام، <http://bitly.ws/KsK8>

⁴⁴ ليبيا تتحول تدريجياً نحو الكهرباء النظيفة بـ 3 مشروعات كبرى للطاقة المتجددة، الطاقة، <http://bitly.ws/KsXX>

⁴⁵ Ibid

⁴⁶ Ibid



As for the year 2022, one of the most important efforts was represented in the launch of the General Electricity Company in Libya for the latest solar power plant project in the Al-Saddadah area with a capacity of generating 500 MW, and it is a project that is considered the largest in the field of generating electricity from solar energy in Libya, and this project comes as part of cooperation Bilateral between the Libyan General Electricity Company and the French company Total⁴⁷.

Sudan is considered one of the most prominent Arab conflict countries, where the energy sector has witnessed a clear impact, manifested through the cancellation and closure of several Sudanese energy projects. During the second half of 2021, the Sudanese Government announced the cancellation of two projects under construction in the field of energy, namely, "Dal" and "Kjabbar" for hydroelectric power generation, due to a group of political unrest that hindered work on the two stations⁴⁸.

Despite this, Sudan was previously following an approach under development, as during the year 2020 Sudan reached the total installed capacity of renewable energy by 2125 MW⁴⁹. By the end of 2021, the Sudanese Water Generation and Renewable Energies Company and a company "Top Qir," delivered the new El Fasher power plant for the city's thermal generation department, which is the first of its kind in the Republic of Sudan to produce electricity through 5 megawatts of solar power⁵⁰.

The year 2023 carried a state of turmoil in the course of progress made in the energy sector in Sudan, it had been selected as one of nine African countries to receive support from the International Solar Alliance for the deployment of renewable energy in the agriculture sector for two years, up to 2025. However, due to the ongoing conflict in Sudan, many projects related to the energy sector have been halted or destroyed, in light of the difficulty of maintenance teams reaching residential areas at the time of power outages that may extend for days. The deteriorating security situation in Sudan led to the looting of solar equipment stores⁵¹. As a result, many solar energy companies in Sudan decided to relocate their operations to states and cities that have not yet been affected by the conflict and its negative effects. This is especially true for Khartoum, where the most prominent solar energy companies are concentrated⁵².

⁴⁷ ليبيا: إطلاق مشروع محطة الطاقة الشمسية باستطاعة 500 ميغاواط، سولار أريك، <http://bitly.ws/L3Pk>

⁴⁸ سوق الطاقة في السودان - النمو والاتجاهات وتأثير كوفيد-19 والتوقعات (2023 - 2028)، modern intelligence، <http://bitly.ws/KtcC>

⁴⁹ Ibid

⁵⁰ أول محطة طاقة شمسية في السودان، سيوتنيك، <http://bitly.ws/Kvv2>

⁵¹ مشروعات الطاقة الشمسية في السودان قد تنهار بسبب الحرب الداخلية (تقرير)، الطاقة، <http://bitly.ws/KvCt>

⁵² Ibid



Target 2

Double the Global Rate of Improvement in Energy Efficiency

In Yemen, in 2022, Yemen's national renewable energy project was inaugurated with a generating capacity of 50 megawatts for \$35 million with funding from the Hodeidah Governorate Support and Development Fund. The project aims to support sustainable development in Yemen through reliance on clean energy sources and the transformation of Yemen into an industrialized country and to alleviate Yemenis' suffering from the effects of the ongoing conflict, which has impeded citizens' access to services⁵³.

The most important work in recent years in improving energy efficiency has not been carried out by the Yemeni Government but by one of the most prominent foreign companies involved in the supply of photovoltaic solutions. The company focused on supplying technology to supply the efficiency of solar cells within the Yemeni market, which has affected the efficiency of energy sources by 22%.

In Syria, given the energy and electricity crisis that has dominated Syria's land for years, efforts to improve energy efficiency are still slow, although they are moving towards a solution. In May 2020, the Economic Commission of the Presidency of Ministers supported the project to establish a fund to support renewable energies and increase energy efficiency, one of the important projects in the energy sector. The project aims to encourage consumers to use renewable energy sources and to reduce the consumption of fossil fuels and petroleum derivatives. The Fund has also helped to improve the efficiency of renewable energies in Syria⁵⁴.

In 2022, the Syrian government ratified Syria's accession to a framework agreement to establish an international alliance for solar energy. Syria's accession to this agreement will help increase its dependence on renewable energy sources directly on supply and demand. It will also contribute to establishing renewable energy and electricity stations that it produces and sells to the public grid. Syria's accession will help develop laws regulating the use of renewable energies optimally and efficiently.

Concerning Libya's efforts during 2023, Libya planned to launch the national green hydrogen project, which was a more efficient energy source than traditional sources, particularly fossil fuels, which would improve access to energy sources. At the government level, the Libyan and German Governments cooperated in the framework of a project to establish a research center on green hydrogen production. The project

⁵³ اليمن المحاصر يتجه نحو الطاقة المتجددة وهذا أول مشروع في الحديدة، المساء برس، <http://bitly.ws/Kq3z>
⁵⁴ سوريا: عرض مشروع صندوق دعم الطاقات المتجددة ورفع كفاءة الطاقة على مجلس الوزراء، سولار إنبيك، <http://bitly.ws/KsuX>



will help localize the country's green hydrogen energy technologies and use the Centre's technologies to support public electricity systems, affecting improved energy consumption and use across the country⁵⁵.

In Sudan, at the government level, there was a new Egyptian-Sudanese cooperation in the energy sector in 2023. It is a 300-megawatt electrical connectivity project between the two countries during the first phase, and it is the first step between Egypt and Africa with a single electrical grid with global quality. The project could expand to 3 thousand megawatts by the end of the project's second phase. The Egyptian Government is endeavoring to transport Sudan's highest energy quality through power transmission lines, affecting the increased efficiency of using power and electricity in Sudan⁵⁶.

c. Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure

Target 1	Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure
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In Yemen, after years of internal conflict, infrastructure deteriorated due to the conflict, its effects, and the looting of Houthi militias toward national infrastructure. Yemen is experiencing slow development efforts; since the beginning of the conflict, the Houthi militia has suspended road maintenance, affecting paving projects throughout Yemen. It also sold the assets of road establishments, causing the inability to establish projects in the country, nor have any steps to face the crisis of the lack of water drainage systems in cities, which resulted in no government plans or strategy; besides the weakness of the government's efforts to deal with the crisis of weak infrastructure and the reliance on grants from international partners an actor to resolve them⁵⁷.

At the beginning of 2021, Yemen's interim government, in cooperation with the United Arab Emirates, launched the first phase of a project package to rehabilitate infrastructure in Aden governorate. The first phase involves the provision of rainwater and sewage suction pumps. Rainwater suction efforts are one of the most important development efforts that the community has lacked for years⁵⁸.

With the beginning of 2023, infrastructure has witnessed many development projects; in Aden governorate, the governorate starting work on the most important infrastructure projects. The project aims to pave the way from the Caltex roundabout

⁵⁵ هل تكون الطاقة الخضراء الوجهة المقبلة للاستثمارات اللبينة؟، انديبننت عربية، <http://bitly.ws/Kt4i>
⁵⁶ الكهرباء: تشغيل خط الربط مع السودان بقدرة 300 ميغاوات نهاية العام الجاري، الوطن، <http://bitly.ws/Kvy2>
⁵⁷ سيول الأمطار تعري الحوثيين.. مشاريع وهمية ودمار في البنية التحتية، العين، <http://bitly.ws/Ky4N>
⁵⁸ مشاريع الإمارات تصلح ما دمره الحوثي باليمن.. تأهيل البنى التحتية، العين، <http://bitly.ws/KyB4>

to the entrance to Aden container port, which leads to the development and modernization of the port interface, facilitating the movement of vehicles and locomotives towards the customs and container port, which supports the investment and export experience within the port⁵⁹.

In Syria, Development efforts and partnerships working in Syrian society were weakened by Syria's absence from Arab society for years before its return again at the beginning of 2023, which has provided development opportunities based on regional partnership.

As for national efforts, there are no Syrian State's reconstruction efforts and no national strategy aimed at reconstruction. Demolitions, destruction, and massive infrastructure targeting continue in north Syria, as they are considered opposition areas. It is concentrated in a group of cities with an estimated area of approximately 20 thousand square kilometers, more than 4 million, they are considerable pressure on infrastructure targeted by all parties to the internal and international conflict and hindering funding efforts to restore infrastructure within them.

The most significant effort in the Syrian interior during 2023 is the Syrian Civil Defence Foundation's pursuit of its plan to recycle the debris of the homes left by the earthquake. The Foundation aims to rehabilitate Syria's infrastructure to support the return of life in the earthquake areas to normal as soon as possible. The plan targets all affected towns and cities in northwestern Syria⁶⁰. In the same year, a Russian-Syrian announcement of cooperation between the two parties aimed at rehabilitating the infrastructure of Syria's airports, thermal power plants, production facilities, and civilian infrastructure⁶¹.

In Libya, The degradation of Libya's infrastructure and the weakness of 4G pneumatic stations are linked to Libya's poor telecommunications and Internet services⁶². Telecommunications and Internet services infrastructure development efforts have been halted for years. Despite adopting implementing regulations in the Communications Act, drafting a new law, and expanding partnerships with the private sector over the past years, these efforts have been limited to the legal context and have

⁵⁹ قريباً.. إزاحة الستار عن أحد أهم مشاريع تطوير البنية التحتية بالعاصمة، عدن سيتي، <http://bitly.ws/Ky6A>

⁶⁰ إعادة تدوير أنقاض الزلزال.. خطة لتأهيل البنية التحتية في الشمال السوري، سوريا، <http://bitly.ws/KySz>

⁶¹ النظام السوري يبحث مع روسيا تأهيل المطارات وتحديث محطات الطاقة الحرارية، سوريا، <http://bitly.ws/KyTG>

⁶² في ليبيا الغنية.. إنترنت رديء وبنية تحتية متردية، سكاى نيوز عربية، <http://bitly.ws/KyWG>

not been implemented to resolve Libya's telecommunications and digital services crisis⁶³.

In 2023 the National Communications and Information Sector Strategy was signed between 2023 and 2027. The strategy's objective is to provide communication for all at fair prices and create an enabling environment for communications and information, using communications and informatics for good governance and for improving economic growth and sustainable development.

On the other hand, Libya Telephone Company had previously entered the telecommunications infrastructure development sector in 2021 through the cooperation of Infinera. The cooperation aims to modernize the telecommunications fiber optic network, creating jobs in telecommunications and related sectors such as investment, financial services, energy, and construction. The cooperation was aimed at developing the communications network in 200 Libyan cities⁶⁴.

In 2022, the Government of National Unity Information Office announced the start of the second part of infrastructure development projects, which included the implementation of the Third Ring Road and Passenger Lounge at Benina Airport, the maintenance and equipping of many public hospitals, the construction of many major roads and the provision of integrated facilities services to many Libyan cities⁶⁵. While there were no development efforts in the various sectors of Libya's infrastructure, this reveals a lack of clarity of a specific Libyan national vision on the pathways to infrastructure development on all Libyan territory.

In Sudan before the outbreak of the conflict, infrastructure development efforts were slow and in partnership with a range of international partners, illustrating the seriousness of the Sudanese infrastructure development client's national vision. Sudan has witnessed a series of projects based on the international partnership to rehabilitate Sudan's flood-affected water depot facilities. Development efforts have also been made to improve access to water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities, but the Government's efforts were weak compared to international partners⁶⁶.

The Government's most significant efforts in the area of infrastructure are summarized in 2022. Work on the Khartoum Airport Infrastructure Development Project, one of the

⁶³ توقيع الاستراتيجية الوطنية لقطاع الاتصالات والمعلوماتية 2023 – 2027، General Authority of Communications and Informatics، <http://bitly.ws/KyYt>

⁶⁴ تطويرات تطاول البنية التحتية للاتصالات في ليبيا، العربي الجديد، <http://bitly.ws/Kz2p>

⁶⁵ الدببية يشدد على تفعيل مشاريع تطوير البنية التحتية بمختلف المدن، الوسط، <https://alwasat.ly/news/libya/345221>

⁶⁶ اليابان ومنظمة العمل الدولية تدعمان قدرة السودان على التكيف البيئي والاجتماعي والاقتصادي، منظمة العمل الدولية، <http://bitly.ws/Kzce>

most prominent infrastructure development projects, was launched. Sudan had no further efforts until the first three months of 2023, and the outbreak of the internal conflict in April significantly stopped development efforts, raising concerns about the decline in development and the scale of destruction caused by the ongoing conflict in the state.

d. Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Target 1	Ensure access for all to adequate, safe, and affordable housing and basic services
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In Yemen, efforts to advance housing development and shelter the displaced are slow and do not cover the destruction of Yemeni homes due to the internal conflict fueled by the Houthi militia. There are no governmental efforts on housing, while the external partners, donors, international agencies, and relief institutions' efforts are the largest in rebuilding Yemen. The most prominent government efforts during 2021 were summed up in the signing of “Yemen Reconstruction” and the National Development Housing Corporation “Sakan” on a memorandum of cooperation that focused on manufacturing housing solutions and converting them into projects and products that support the reconstruction of Yemen⁶⁷.

In Syria, the government's efforts in the housing file have been slow since the beginning of the conflict years. Advertisements for subscription are often put up for housing that the Ministry of Housing does not finish and is not delivered to its residents. The most prominent is the 2012 IPO, whose projects have not been completed nor received until the announcement.

In 2023, Syria returns to the Arab League, spurring housing efforts again. 2023 witnessed the announcement by the Military Housing Corporation of opening subscriptions for residential apartments within the framework of the first free expansion in the villages of al-Assad, and a project of 140 apartments in the al-Hamdaniya suburb of Aleppo, al-Qamishli, and the Buqa suburb in Lattakia, the Masyaf suburb in Masyaf and the Thawra suburb in Deir ez-Zor⁶⁸.

⁶⁷ «إعمار اليمن» و «سكن» يوقعان مذكرة تعاون مشترك لتعزيز الاستقرار الاجتماعي والاقتصادي في اليمن، الرياض، <http://bitly.ws/Kzjz>

⁶⁸ الإسكان العسكرية تفتح باب الاكتتاب على شقق سكنية في عدة محافظات، سناء، <http://bitly.ws/KWDB>

Government efforts have also moved to compensate those affected by the Syrian earthquake. In this context, a national action plan to deal with the repercussions of the earthquake, entitled "People First", was launched on April 15.

The plan includes the construction of residential buildings for those affected by the earthquake, consisting of 4 buildings containing 320 apartments in the Al-Haydariya neighborhood, four buildings containing 120 apartments in the Al-Maasraniyah suburb, and four other buildings in Aleppo with 160 apartments to be built on lands owned by the Al-Asman Foundation and 160 apartments owned by the Latakia City Council⁶⁹.

In Libya, over the last decade, a major housing crisis has been exacerbated on the Libyan lands in parallel with the exacerbation of the conflict and the state of security instability dominating the Libyan reality; most residential projects in Libya stopped in the last decade. Official data also revealed that the annual housing shortage amounted to half a million units in 2010, a figure that increased over the years of the conflict, so the unit supply prices rose⁷⁰. In 2021, the Housing Projects Evaluation Committee affiliated with the Housing and Utilities Projects Execution Agency prepared a report on a project to construct more than 17,000 housing units, work on which will be completed through investment and financing from outside the general budget⁷¹.

While 2023 witnessed the meeting of the President of the Audit Bureau, the Minister of Housing and Construction of the Government of National Unity, and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Authority for the Development and Development of Administrative Centers in Libya to discuss many issues, They discussed the crisis of stalled housing construction projects and ways to overcome the obstacles facing them to support the completion of these projects⁷². The Ministry of Housing and Construction also followed up on the "return to life" projects launched by Al-Dabaiba within the spatial boundaries in the western region; the plan included projects in each of (Quqm area - Mahrouqa area - Taroth area).⁷³.

The Cabinet Resolution No. 200 of 2023 issuance to cancel Resolution No. 1055 of 2022, contributed to the regression of the steps to support reconstruction in Libya; the first decision cancels the work of the second decision in terms of the Libyan government's direction to allocate sums of money to support financing for housing

⁶⁹ مشاريع الإسكان الحكومية للمستحقين، حقوق السكن والأراضي والممتلكات، <http://bitly.ws/KWgk>

⁷⁰ أزمة سكن في ليبيا... ومواطنون يقتحمون عقارات قيد الإنشاء، العربي الجديد، <http://bitly.ws/KzDx>

⁷¹ تقرير مفصل عن أكثر من 17 ألف وحدة سكنية، قناة ليبيا، <http://bitly.ws/KzGY>

⁷² ديوان المحاسبة يناقش المشاريع السكنية المتوقفة، عين ليبيا، <http://bitly.ws/KzI8>

⁷³ وزارة الإسكان تتابع استكمال مشروعات "عودة الحياة"، الوطن، <http://bitly.ws/L5eT>

purposes, which impedes reconstruction efforts and infrastructure improvement in Libya⁷⁴.

In Sudan, the cost of the war between the two parties to the conflict in Sudan was 900 million pounds, which is equivalent to 1.500 million dollars per day. It means that the cost of reconstruction will be high in light of the high cost of the daily war compared to the old Sudanese experience in the war on Darfur and its cost to the country on the economic and humanitarian levels and in the reconstruction sector in particular⁷⁵.

Despite the newness of the Sudanese internal conflict, the efforts of reconstruction operations and the provision of adequate housing for the Sudanese are very rapid and keep pace with the negative effects of the crisis. The Sudanese government has indicated that it has started planning for housing construction and reconstruction in Khartoum. The meeting of Arab ambassadors in Port Sudan, eastern Sudan, also included discussions about involving brothers and donors in the reconstruction process and building adequate housing in Sudan as part of the early reconstruction process after the end of the war⁷⁶.

Target 2	Provide Access to Safe and Inclusive Green and Public Spaces
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In Yemen, orchards and green spaces are considered the most important elements of the environmental system and the cultural component. However, the change in the irrigation system of the traditional orchards associated with the mosques and the rapid decline of the groundwater level in the central Sana'a plateau is one of the drivers of drought and desertification in the orchards of Sana'a⁷⁷.

After eight years of conflict in Yemen, the population's need for fuel was increased, the energy crisis was exacerbated, and the phenomenon of excessive logging dominated the environment in Yemen, which impact the environmental balance and increased drought rates in Yemen, with the unstable dunes⁷⁸.

Efforts to provide ways to benefit from the areas of green cover are the weakest in Yemen. The desertification or drought crisis has not been resolved; efforts are directed

⁷⁴ قرار رقم 200 لسنة 2023 م بإلغاء قراره رقم 1055 لسنة 2022 م، المجمع القانوني الليبي، <http://bitly.ws/L5ib>
⁷⁵ 1.5 مليون دولار تكلفة الحرب اليومية ضد قوات الدعم السريع، سودان تربيون، <http://bitly.ws/KzKD>
⁷⁶ اجتماع سوداني - عربي يمهّد لإعادة إعمار الخرطوم، مكة، <http://bitly.ws/KzNH>
⁷⁷ اختفاء المساحات الخضراء من صنعاء القديمة... بفعل البشر أم بفعل المناخ؟، رصيف 22، <http://bitly.ws/KBrX>
⁷⁸ كارثة الاحتطاب في اليمن تستنزف الغطاء النباتي، عدن الغد، <http://bitly.ws/KBAG>

only towards the maintenance, afforestation, and rehabilitation of public parks during the periods Yemenis visit them on holidays⁷⁹, which are repeated annually to prepare green parks to receive Yemenis only during the holidays⁸⁰.

One of the most important efforts is the participation of the Yemeni government represented by the Minister of Water and Environment and the Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Fisheries in the work of the Sustainability and Government Action Forum organized by the Arab Organization for Administrative Development of the League of Arab States in Cairo. The forum witnessed the launch of the report on the state of Arab governments "Sustainability and Green Government" which will contribute to raising the readiness of Arab governments in achieving sustainability and confronting climate change and its negative effects. The report will also contribute to helping Arab countries explore future sectors of work through which they can achieve sustainable Arab development based on proactive climate visions and policies which affect green spaces in Yemen⁸¹.

In Syria; During the years of internal conflict, northeastern Syria regions witnessed a significant decline in green spaces, which prompted afforestation efforts and provided citizens with ways to benefit from green spaces, such as:

2021 witnessed the continuation of the Syrian Green Braids initiative in its efforts to afforestation a group of Syrian lands as part of its plan to plant 4 million trees to save green areas and provide suitable spaces to receive Syrian citizens as a continuation of the project that started in 2020. The Environment Directorate of the Authority of Local Administrations and the Environment of the Autonomous Administration also launched Syrian Democracy a project to establish an artificial forest in the Mezkit Dam area in Tarbesbiyeh. The project focuses on planting 3430 trees to support the increase of green spaces and provide them for the residents of the island⁸².

In 2022, the Medad Foundation, in cooperation with the University of Aleppo Defense, the Syrian Civil Defense, the local councils, the Department of Forestry and Forestry in the Syrian Interior, and the Forestry Directorate in the Turkish state of Gaziantep, launched the national initiative to restore the Syrian environmental wealth to plant half

⁷⁹ تجهيز 69 حديقة ومنتزه في أمانة العاصمة لاستقبال الزوار خلال العيد، وكالة الصحافة اليمنية، <http://bitly.ws/KBCZ>

⁸⁰ أمانة العاصمة.. جاهزية 70 حديقة ومنتزه لاستقبال المواطنين خلال العيد، سبأ نت، <http://bitly.ws/KBFa>

⁸¹ الوزير الشرجي يشارك ضمن وفد رفيع المستوى في منتدى الاستدامة والعمل الحكومي العربي بالقاهرة، وزارة المياه والبيئة، اليوم، فيسبوك، <http://bitly.ws/KXtT>

⁸² الإدارات المحلية والبيئة في الجزيرة تُطلق مشروع إنشاء غابة اصطناعية، المجلس التنفيذي لشمال وشرق سوريا، <http://bitly.ws/KBZd>

a million forestry and fruit trees. The project is on a tree planting plan for 3 years, with a rate of planting of 1,000 trees per day⁸³.

In Libya; the stormy climatic crisis and severe drought caused the desertification of thousands of Libyan lands, with the phenomenon of logging, which spread widely among the people, causing a decline in vegetation and the loss of thousands of lands, including about 10 thousand hectares in the Green Mountain alone⁸⁴.

However, the Libyan efforts to develop vegetation and support facilitating the provision of green spaces for citizens are slow and illustrate the lack of awareness and vision of the importance and vitality of vegetation cover and green spaces in a country affected by the climate crisis and the resulting warming and drought.

Summed up the total efforts; In 2021, the Ministry of Interior of the Government of National Accord launched a campaign to plant trees in the damaged forests of the Suwehli Farm project in Misrata. The campaign promoted the presence and availability of vegetation and green spaces for citizens. These efforts are within the framework of the afforestation campaign launched in Al-Nagaza Park some time ago under the slogan "Participate."⁸⁵

During 2022, the capital, Tripoli, will host the Libyan Forum for Investment and Sustainable Development, which aims to achieve development in many fields. The forum included several initiatives, including the initiative to plant 100 million trees by 2030 to combat desertification and support increasing the vegetation cover of Libya⁸⁶. The Libyan government has made efforts to restore 8,000 hectares of land in the region, with an increase in the rate of attacks on green spaces in the Libyan green belt⁸⁷.

In 2023, an afforestation campaign was launched in the "Al-Assa" agricultural project under the slogan "Plant a tree... the tree is our life." This step is considered one of the most important steps to revive the Al-Assa project, which had been suspended for several years previously⁸⁸.

In Sudan, Green spaces were destroyed due to climate crises that caused extreme weather phenomena, including floods, torrential rains, and droughts resulting from

⁸³ نصف مليون شجرة.. مخطط لإنعاش وترميم رثة الشمال السوري إصوير، سوريا، <http://bitly.ws/KBXq>

⁸⁴ ليبيا: تشجير لتعويض خسائر الغطاء النباتي، العربي الجديد، <http://bitly.ws/KCaY>

⁸⁵ انطلاق حملة تشجير بمشروع مزرعة السويحلي في مصراتة، الوسط، <http://bitly.ws/L5m5>

⁸⁶ وزارة التخطيط تعلن عن إقامة منتدى دولي للتنمية المستدامة في ليبيا نهاية مارس القادم، وكالة انباء ليبيا، <http://bitly.ws/KCsT>

⁸⁷ مجموعة ليبيا الخضراء تكافح لإنقاذ الغابات المتبقية، البيان المصري، <http://bitly.ws/KCum>

⁸⁸ انطلاق حملة التشجير بمشروع العسة الزراعي، وكالة الأنباء الليبية، <http://bitly.ws/L5DR>

high temperatures. These phenomena affected the green spaces indoors, causing erosion of the vegetation cover by 25% during the last decade⁸⁹; the efforts of the Sudanese government did not counter that. Where the most prominent government efforts in 2021 were summed up in the launch of the Supreme Council for Environment and Natural Resources, a replicable model program aimed at combating desertification and environmental awareness of the importance of afforestation⁹⁰.

Despite the increased calls for activating the Sudanese afforestation plans, the government's efforts are still inadequate, and no other efforts have been made. It also did not announce clear strategies to turn afforestation plans into reality, and it is expected that it will be affected more by the outbreak of conflict, which is a threat to green spaces in Sudan and the ability of citizens to benefit from and access them.

e. Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Target 1	Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries
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In Yemen, investment promotion systems are promising. Yemen and its international partners made many efforts to encourage investment in various sectors. The most prominent effort made in 2023, the most active year, was the issuance of the Public Investment Authority branch, which was the first guide to investment opportunities. The guide aims to introduce investors to the most prominent opportunities and encourage them to participate in the development through merging with investment projects. The guide included information about 112 investment opportunities in various industrial and service sectors⁹¹.

The Yemeni Investment Forum, in its fourth session, discussed the investment opportunities and advantages available in sectors such as the Yemeni agricultural sector, ways to overcome the challenges facing investment in Yemen, and ways to enhance cooperation and overlap between the public and private sectors to support investment in Yemen⁹².

⁸⁹ "تهدد أجياديات الحياة" ... السودان تحت وطأة التغيرات المناخية، رصيف 22، <http://bitly.ws/KCGI>
⁹⁰ المجلس الأعلى للبيئة ي دشّن مشروع تشجير وادي الرواكب بأم درمان، وكالة السودان للأنباء، <http://bitly.ws/L5IM>
⁹¹ تشمل 112 فرصة، الأيام، <http://bitly.ws/KCXm>
⁹² منتدى الاستثمار يناقش في دورته الرابعة فرص الاستثمار بالقطاع الزراعي، سبانت، <http://bitly.ws/KD69>



In Syria, after years of stopping most of the investments in Syrian lands, the capital was affected by political instability and the imposition of the Caesar Act, which deprived Syria of any form of financing or obtaining investments in support of the afflicted interior, the Syrian government made many efforts to support attracting investments into the Syrian interior. The Syrian Investment Law was issued in 2021, one of the latest laws supporting investment in Syria. The law focused on granting privileges and exemptions to capital to encourage them to invest in the republic. The law also facilitated the procedures for establishing companies in all their forms⁹³. Based on these changes in the Syrian reality, the United Arab Emirates announced its entry into the Syrian investment market through a photovoltaic energy production project, which work was announced to start in 2022⁹⁴.

The law witnessed an amendment in 2023. The new amendment adds provisions for granting licenses to real estate development and investment companies and the capacity of a real estate developer or its cancellation in the event of violating the conditions for granting it, in addition to exempting imports of building materials, tools, equipment, machinery, non-tourist service means of transport, and a group of other sectors⁹⁵.

In Libya, it witnessed stagnation towards making amendments or enacting laws that would encourage the investment environment in Libya; the investment law issued in 2010 was still being implemented, for more than a decade before the Libyan reality changed completely, which shows the Libyan government lags behind the development in investment. But the last three years have witnessed support for the investment climate.

In 2021, the International Investment Conference launched towards the south in the Libyan city of Ubari. It is one of the most important Libyan conferences because it represents a Libyan economic shift from dependence on rentier activities to other investment activities. The conference will attract 480 billion dollars in investments in Libya⁹⁶. 2023 witnessed several efforts, including a working group formation to focus on setting specific controls and criteria for granting approvals for investment projects⁹⁷.

In Sudan, years before the outbreak of the conflict, investors headed towards Sudan. They are supported by some government decisions represented in removing the name

⁹³ قانون الاستثمار الجديد في الجمهورية العربية السورية، السفارة السورية برومانيا، <http://bitly.ws/KDdbx>
⁹⁴ لمواجهة الحصار والضغوط الاقتصادية: سوريا واستثمارات ما بعد الحرب، الميادين، <http://bitly.ws/KDdx>
⁹⁵ النظام السوري يعدل قانون الاستثمار العقاري. تمهيداً لـ "تدفق" الأموال الخليجية، المدن، <http://bitly.ws/KDn2>
⁹⁶ مؤتمر "الفرص المغربية" .. 480 مليار دولار في الطريق إلى ليبيا، سكاى نيوز عربية، <http://bitly.ws/KE48>
⁹⁷ تشكيل فريق عمل لوضع ضوابط منح الموافقة للمشاريع الاستثمارية، الوسط، <https://alwasat.ly/news/libya/390355>

of Sudan from the international list of states sponsoring terrorism, in addition to liberalizing the currency exchange rate. But the infrastructure needs in Sudan hindered investment⁹⁸.

The years before the outbreak of the conflict witnessed government efforts supporting the investment sector, including the allocation of 6 sectors in 2021 for investment in Sudan by Saudi Arabia during the work of the Saudi-Sudanese Investment Forum with the participation of 45 Saudi companies⁹⁹. The Sudanese government also held talks with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on ways to create partnerships and investments between the two countries in agriculture, energy, cooperation, and ports¹⁰⁰.

In 2021, the Sudanese government put forward 18 projects during the Paris Investment Conference as projects ready to receive investments. During that period, the government took measures described as reformist and supportive of the investment climate, including the investment encouragement law approval and the partnership law between the public and private sectors and approving the Islamic and traditional systems in banking transactions¹⁰¹.

However, Sudan has no investments, despite government reform efforts. However, all investment efforts stopped after the outbreak of the conflict while investors were waiting to notice developments in the situation there.

Axis II: UN Efforts and International Mechanisms ... Who is the Savior in the Conflict Countries?

After 7.5 years since the announcement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, heralding the half-time specified for working on the implementation of the global development goals, there are many questions about the efforts of international mechanisms and UN bodies in supporting development paths in the Arab world, especially in the Arab countries, which are suffering from conflicts that definitely affected the reality of development in Arab societies, which will be focused on during the following sections.

⁹⁸ ماذا أعد السودان من محفزات لجذب الاستثمارات الأجنبية؟، انديبننت عربية، <http://bitly.ws/KEdU>
⁹⁹ السودان يخصص 6 قطاعات للاستثمار من قبل السعودية، ARABIC.NEWS.CN، <http://bitly.ws/KEgt>
¹⁰⁰ السعودية تبحث الاستثمار والشراكة "الحقيقية" مع السودان، الترا سودان، <http://bitly.ws/KEi5>
¹⁰¹ الاستثمار في السودان... حضرت التسهيلات وغاب المستثمرون، العربي الجديد، <http://bitly.ws/L5PF>

First: Analyzing the Reality of the UN Efforts of the Countries under Study

1. Libya

The importance of the UN efforts exerted to support the development plans in Libyan society appears in light of the fact that these efforts did not overlook the principle of parallelism in working on the goals, as the efforts do not only focus on contributing to resolving the negative effects left by the conflict, but also focus on working to build peace and support democratic governance as a fundamental platform that will completely change the path of development work if comprehensively supported.

One of the most important efforts that was considered as a clear effort to support development work in Libya is election to the membership of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for the period between 2021 and 2023. Libya got a membership seat in what was seen as one of the most important steps that will help support development efforts in the 3 areas of social, economic and environmental development in Libya.¹⁰²

The efforts of the UN, 16 agencies, UN funds and programs, besides the UN Mission in Libya, have also been active over the years of the conflict. During 2021, the UN Development Program (UNDP), through the Stabilization Facility for Libya (SFL), established a wastewater treatment plant with a capacity of 400 m / cube, in order to improve sanitation services for 15,000 patients received by the Libyan Tajoura Hospital.¹⁰³

The Security Council also issued Resolution No. 2656 of 2022 aimed at expanding the role of the UN Mission in Libya to include providing strategic advice on economic reforms and dialogue around them, and supporting oversight of economic institutions as one of the most important efforts that will help reduce corruption and direct Libyan financial resources towards the development plans announced by the state.¹⁰⁴

As for 2023, UNDP in Libya revealed the **country program's action plan for the period between 2023-2025**, as the program's work during that time period will focus on dealing with urgent national development challenges in Libyan society by

¹⁰² Libya secures seat in UN ECOSOC, AA, <http://bitly.ws/Lcns>

¹⁰³ محطة جديدة لمعالجة مياه الصرف الصحي بالمركز الوطني للقلب في تاجوراء، برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي. <http://bitly.ws/KxSh>

¹⁰⁴ الإصلاحات الاقتصادية، بعثة الأمم المتحدة في ليبيا، <http://bitly.ws/Lcza>

supporting investments in a sustainable manner, besides focusing on building local peace and strengthening democratic governance.¹⁰⁵

FAO also cooperated with the Libyan government to work jointly to develop a strategic plan for national food security, in addition to working to activate the Unilateral Development Fund Program in Libya to support and ensure food and water security for Libyan citizens in light of the conflict¹⁰⁶.

The UNDP also launched the “My Municipality” project, funded by the European Union, with the aim of making improvements in infrastructure and basic services in Libya. The program extends from 2018, providing support to 3 million citizens, until 2023, when it was decided to expand the project to include development support in 21 municipalities in the south of Libya¹⁰⁷.

In 2023, the **United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL)** implemented 108 projects in 28 locations during 2022 to strengthen governance, improve economic opportunities and restore access to basic services, such as education, health care, water and sanitation. (Goals 8, 4, 3, 6, 9)

The mission also strengthened the local economy in Libya by strengthening the supply and demand sides of the labor market, by **providing job training opportunities and supporting the livelihoods of more than 76,000 young men and women, migrants and the local community across the country**, pursuant to achieving SDG8 on economic growth.

The mission also cooperated under SDG17, which is concerned with strengthening partnerships with 23 ministries, 66 government institutions, 25 member states, 28 donors, and 7 academic institutions. The mission trained 22 representatives of government institutions and civil society on the rationalization of agricultural water use, which takes place under the achievement of SDG6 on water.¹⁰⁸

2. Syria

The High-Level Political Forum greatly helped supporting sustainable development efforts in Syria, as the Syrian Arab Republic was integrated as a leading partner in the

¹⁰⁵ UNDP Libya Country Programmer Document for 2023 – 2025, UNDP, <http://bitly.ws/KLLZ>

¹⁰⁶ الفاو: دعم التعاون مع الحكومة الليبية لتطوير القطاع الزراعي، المصري اليوم، <http://bitly.ws/KLAD>

¹⁰⁷ EU-funded Balaaditya program me, UNDP, <http://bitly.ws/KKkj>

¹⁰⁸ بعثة الأمم المتحدة في ليبيا، تقرير النتائج السنوي في ليبيا خلال عام 2022، بتاريخ النشر 2023، متاح على: <https://unsmil.unmissions.org/ar>

electronic platform for sustainable development partnerships. Syria was also involved in the international hydrographic capacity-building program in coastal countries, which seeks to provide advice on the best ways for Syria to fulfill its international obligations in the field of sustainable development, especially in the field of developing local infrastructure, providing mechanisms for fishing, and exploiting marine resources.¹⁰⁹

At the same time, **the activity dominated development efforts and UN support efforts in Syria**, which kept pace with the crises in a very accurate way. The earthquake that struck the Syrian lands during the first half of this year revealed the speed of the UN development efforts, as the UNDP “Whole of Syria” project helped support the early recovery paths of the Syrian society after the natural disaster by adopting a community-based approach, supporting the priority needs of those affected, and supporting sustainable recovery processes within the community.¹¹⁰

While one of the most important efforts of the project in 2022 was to provide sustainable livelihoods for families and local communities, in addition to supporting the green recovery of society through several various projects, including what was directed to support reliance on renewable clean energy, rational and healthy waste management, besides projects supporting circular economy paths and sustainable use for local resources¹¹¹, the program also focused during 2021 on supporting small and medium enterprises inside Syria through the "Business Revival" project¹¹².

While the UN continues its efforts to expand ways to provide humanitarian aid to millions of needy people in northwestern Syria, Bab Al Hawa is considered the center of gravity in transporting UN aid into Syria, as more than 85% of the UN trucks arrive inside Syria through Bab al-Hawa crossing. The UN agencies also stockpile supplies in northwest Syria to ensure that the humanitarian needs are met.¹¹³

100 days after the devastating earthquake, the **UN efforts** continue to support the needy inside Syria, as 2,200 aid trucks entered from southern Turkey to northwestern Syria. Since February to May, the UN also completed 100 cross-border relief missions between UN agencies in northwestern Syria.¹¹⁴

¹⁰⁹ Syrian Arab Republic, UN, <http://bitly.ws/Lc36>

¹¹⁰ UNDP in Syria Rebuilding Lives and Hope, UNDP, <http://bitly.ws/KLLj>

¹¹¹ مشروع التعافي الأخضر لتوفير سبل عيش مستدام للأسر والمجتمعات، روابطه <http://bitly.ws/KLNd>

¹¹² مشروع إعادة إحياء الأعمال، روابطه <http://bitly.ws/KLrD>

¹¹³ Today's top news: Sudan, Syria, ocha, <http://bitly.ws/Lbx8>

¹¹⁴ Today's top news: Myanmar, Ethiopia, Sudan, Syria, OCHA, <http://bitly.ws/LbIs>

The UN Country Team **Syria** developed the **Strategic Framework 2022-2024 in Syria** to enhance resilience and development in the region, especially in light of the ongoing conflict in the country. By focusing on four pillars, the 1st pillar is the provision of basic and social services and access to them, the 2nd pillar is sustainable socio-economic recovery, the 3rd pillar is an enabling environment for a resilient return, and the 4th pillar is the resilience of people and the institutional capacity to respond.

With responding to people's needs at the heart of its work, the UN Country Team continues to complement large direct humanitarian assistance efforts with multi-year resilience activities. In 2021, the UN Country Team has defined a joint approach to strengthening resilience in Syria, highlighting its goal of strengthening urban and rural livelihoods of vulnerable people and improving sustainable, equitable and safe access to vital basic services in areas of greatest need. The team seeks to focus on activities within a strategic framework and on multi-year resilience and early recovery programs aimed at designing and implementing more sustainable statements.

The UN Country Team contributes to improving equitable, inclusive and safe access to good essential services. The priority areas (health, education and light rehabilitation of critical civil infrastructures for basic services, housing, land and property related services and environmental sustainability) are centered and promote activities that provide better access for people, especially the most vulnerable, to social protection services, sustainable livelihoods, and inclusive and equitable social and economic recovery.

Besides improving the living conditions of the displaced, returnees and affected communities by supporting the capacities of the relevant institutions to provide basic legal, administrative and social services, and enhancing flexibility by strengthening the institutional response in providing services. Priority is given to building the necessary capacities for communities to actively participate in area-based resilience activities, and for institutions to provide comprehensive and equitable social and protection services.¹¹⁵

3. Sudan:

One of the most important **efforts of the HLPF is to support Sudan in its endeavor to integrate the country into the “Young African Leaders” Initiative (YALI)** in its

¹¹⁵ UN Syrian Arab republic, UN Strategic Framework 2022-2024, 12 October 2022, <http://bitly.ws/KWNY>



endeavor to integrate the country into the Young African Leaders Initiative (RLC EA), which aims to work on preparing the next generation of skilled Sudanese youth to be active leaders in their country and Africa, where they will be trained on leadership tools, models and skills.¹¹⁶

While the development efforts exerted to support sustainable development paths in Sudan reveal a well-studied vision of the real needs and local development priorities within Sudanese society, which prompted development efforts to be highly specialized in working to support what will help bring about real development in those societies.

During 2020, with the declaration of economic emergency in Sudan, **the UN agencies contributed** to working on the establishment of the "**Higher Committee for Economic Emergencies**" with the aim of adopting measures to address economic crises and encourage investment in Sudan. While by the end of 2020, within the framework of a partnership conference held in Sudan in cooperation with the UN and the European Union, the **World Bank** pledged at the end of the conference to provide a grant of \$400 million to support macroeconomic improvement and provide direct humanitarian and development assistance, whether in the form of support for infrastructure, or for water and sanitation intersections and other various means of support.¹¹⁷

While the **UNDP** focused between 2022 and 2023 on supporting 5 very important development areas in Sudan, which included support for peace, stability, governance, and reform of local justice systems, besides supporting economic recovery and democratization in the country, and reviving the health sector to provide better services for the Sudanese citizen, and finally, to support mitigation projects, adapt to climate change, and improve access to better energy sources with the aim of solving one of the biggest problems that dominate the Sudanese situation, which is the energy resource crisis.¹¹⁸

While the international efforts after the outbreak of the conflict were represented in cooperation between **UNICEF** and its partners to distribute quantities of water resources, safe water storage tanks and water sterilization tablets in gathering places and various shelters¹¹⁹. Electricity was also treated at the stopped water stations in

¹¹⁶ YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS INITIATIVE - RLC EA, UN, HLPF, <http://bitly.ws/Lcdv>

¹¹⁷ Report of the Independent Expert about human rights in Sudan, OHCHR, <http://bitly.ws/Lb5H>

¹¹⁸ UNDP Sudan, UNDP <https://www.undp.org/sudan/our-focus>

¹¹⁹ مصادر المياه الآمنة توفر العون للعائلات النازحة في السودان، يونيسيف، <http://bitly.ws/KFC6>



Bahri, and operating water wells to feed 4 water lanes, which are temporary solutions that do not contribute to solving the long-term water crisis in Sudan.¹²⁰

UNICEF also directed part of its efforts towards supporting the ability of the displaced and citizens to access services on a temporary basis, as the organization provided them with vital support in the field of sanitation and its requirements, sanitation facilities in North Darfur hospitals were also supported¹²¹, which are temporary support efforts that did not work to solve the dilapidated crisis original sanitation facilities.

UNICEF and partners reached millions of girls and boys with life-saving and sustainable statements in 2022. More than 3 million people gained access to basic household water supplies, 510 communities stopped open defecation, and more than 2 million people were reached through hygiene promotion activities (to achieve SDG6). Over one million measles vaccines were administered (SDG3), 400,000 children were reached by school supplies (SDG4), 322,000 severely malnourished children were treated (SDG2), 52,000 pregnant and lactating women were reached with integrated social protection services, which benefited more than 300,000 people (SDG5).¹²²

The **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)** also published the concluding observations on the initial report of Sudan. Through this report, the Convention presented the positive moves taken by the Sudanese government pursuant to the Convention and in line with achieving the SDGs, and in implementation of the principle (**leaving no one behind**), and provided effective recommendations to the Sudanese government to promote access for people with disabilities to all social and economic services.¹²³

As the fighting continues in Sudan, and many Sudanese cross the border into Chad every day, the **World Food Programme (WFP)** is working to expand its response to the needs of Sudanese arrivals at the border. Inside Sudan, the program was able to provide food support to more than 400,000 Sudanese in East, North, South and Central Darfur.¹²⁴

¹²⁰ مياه ولاية الخرطوم تعيد الخدمة للعديد من المحطات والآبار التي تأثرت بالأحداث، أخبار السودان، <http://bitly.ws/KFE3>

¹²¹ مخاوف من وقوع عدد كبير من الوفيات في السودان، وتقديرات بوصول عدد اللاجئين إلى 100 ألف، أخبار الأمم المتحدة، <http://bitly.ws/KFGU>

¹²² UN Sudan, UNICEF Sudan Annual Results Report 2022, 10 April 2023, <http://bitly.ws/KWfQ>

¹²³ Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Concluding observations on the initial report of the Sudan, <http://bitly.ws/L5iq>

¹²⁴ Ibid, Today's top news: Sudan, Syria

The **FAO** focused on increasing the availability of local food. During June, it delivered trucks carrying 50 tons of maize seeds to Blue Nile State to help the residents of the state. It also helped facilitate the movement of 630 trucks carrying more than 285,000 tons of aid to 10 Sudanese States.¹²⁵

While the **UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)** facilitated the movement of 438 trucks carrying about 17,000 tons of aid destined to different parts of Sudanese territory, and 50 aid trucks moved during the first two days of the ceasefire.¹²⁶

While the **UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)** announced the allocation of 22 million dollars to support life-saving aid in light of the Sudanese conflict, the UN also organized an event at the ministerial level supported by Egypt, Qatar, Morocco, Germany, the African Union and the European Union, the event concluded to donate 1.5 billion dollars to support relief activities in Sudan.¹²⁷

4. Yemen:

One of the most prominent efforts of the HLPF is the inclusion of Yemen as a key partner in the partnership platform for sustainable development. A Master's and Doctorate of Science department in sustainable development was also established in the academic programs at Sana'a University, which is a program aimed at creating integrated academic awareness about sustainable development for people and the challenges of achieving development and using its efforts for a safer world.¹²⁸

The **UNDP** in Yemen revealed its plan of action for the period between 2022 and 2024, which focused on 4 tracks for the real priorities of the right-wingers in light of the conflict, which are providing food security, supporting local development and social services, reviving and supporting the inclusive economy, many development efforts contributed to support these four tracks.¹²⁹

A group of the most prominent UN development efforts were represented in the efforts made between 2018 and 2022 through the "**Emergency Electricity Project**" of the

¹²⁵ Ibid

¹²⁶ Today's top news: Sudan, Ukraine, OCHA, <http://bitly.ws/LbAu>

¹²⁷ Today's top news: Ukraine, Sudan, OCHA, <http://bitly.ws/LbBS>

¹²⁸ Yemen, UN, HLPF, <http://bitly.ws/Lc5h>

¹²⁹ UNDP Yemen and the UN, UNDP, <https://www.undp.org/yemen/undp-yemen-and-un>



World Bank. There were many public achievements directed towards improving access to energy sources in rural areas and the luxury of Yemeni cities¹³⁰

During 2021, the emergency project for integrated urban services in Yemen - one of the most prominent projects of the World Bank - made great development efforts in 2021, represented in the rehabilitation of 234 km of roads in 9 Yemeni cities, the provision of services to 3 million Yemenis was resumed as a result. Efforts also supported the rehabilitation of infrastructure for water, transportation, energy and solid waste management projects.¹³¹

In the same year, **UNICEF** received a grant of \$15.6 million from the German government. The grant aims to establish projects that will improve the opportunity for one million Yemeni citizens to have access to clean and pure water services.¹³² While the year 2022 witnessed the implementation of the rainwater storage project proposals in 3 villages by the World Bank and its partners.¹³³

The year 2022 also witnessed a partnership between the "Reconstruction Program for Yemen", the UN Human Settlements Program "Habitat" and Alwaleed Philanthropies, with the aim of improving the living and housing conditions of Yemenis by handing them over 150 housing units in Aden governorate.¹³⁴ Also, during 2022, the World Bank cooperated to improve the scope of the population's access to clean water through a partnership with the UNDP and UNICEF, and to provide improved water sources for more than 3 million Yemenis. In this context, this partnership launched its emergency health and nutrition project, which covers 16 urban areas and aims to rehabilitate 113 water wells.¹³⁵

The **UNCERF** also allocated \$18 million to address the food security crisis in Yemen. At the same time, the UN funded the "Yemen Appeal" program worth \$4.3 billion, which will allow UN agencies and partners to support food security and address the malnutrition crisis in Hajjah, Al Hudaydah and Taiz governorates.¹³⁶

Besides, during 2023, the **World Bank** announced its approval of granting new development financing in the amount of \$ 25 million to Yemen, with the aim of

¹³⁰ استعادة الخدمات الحضرية في اليمن، البنك الدولي، <http://bitly.ws/KyC6>

¹³¹ ألمانيا تقدم منحة بمبلغ 15.6 مليون دولار أمريكي لدعم النازحين والمجتمعات المستضيفة في اليمن، يونيسيف، <http://bitly.ws/Kwpi>

¹³² البنك الدولي: 18 مليون يمني يواجهون شح مياه الشرب، الشرق الأوسط، <http://bitly.ws/KwWI>

¹³³ تسليم 150 مسكن في إطار مشروع «المسكن الملائم» في محافظة عدن، الأمم المتحدة، اليمن، <http://bitly.ws/KziJ>

¹³⁴ تجميع مياه الأمطار في اليمن: حل دائم لشح المياه، البنك الدولي، <http://bitly.ws/Kx3a>

¹³⁵ تجميع مياه الأمطار في اليمن: حل دائم لشح المياه، البنك الدولي، <http://bitly.ws/Kx3a>

¹³⁶ Today's top news: Sudan, Yemen, OCHA, <http://bitly.ws/LbMJ>

improving services and supporting the infrastructure sector in 19 different urban centers, rehabilitating roads, providing energy, solid waste management, and municipal services, which will benefit 3 million people.¹³⁷

In the same year, the World Bank received a \$19.5 million grant from the **International Development Association (IDA)**, besides another \$5.9 million grant from the **Global Partnership on Output-Based Aid (GPOBA)** to be used to provide sustainable urban services in the water, sanitation, hygiene and waste management sectors to benefit a total of 3 million Yemeni citizens.¹³⁸

Second: Development Opportunities and Challenges facing the Conflicting Arab Countries

Despite the political instability that dominates the conflicting Arab countries, its occurrence in an active region in the field of development work highlights a different set of **development work opportunities**, the most prominent of which are:

A. Organizing Climate Conferences in the Arab world:

Organizing the Conference of the Parties in an Arab country is an important opportunity for the Arab conflict countries, as this opportunity contributes to supporting the transformation of the Arab world into an active region in the field of climate action and its various issues, besides pushing and supporting the national and regional efforts to deal more deeply with climate crises, whose effects are part of the crisis in conflict countries in the Arab world.

B. Efforts of International Partners and UN Statements

The role and efforts of international partners, UN bodies, and national and regional donors, in some circumstances, exceed the efforts of actual governments in the four conflict countries under study, which brings to mind the importance of cooperation and the efforts resulting from the intervention of international partners and donors in supporting development efforts in their various dimensions in conflict countries, whether it is an infrastructure support or emergency intervention to treat crises due to conflict.

¹³⁷ البنك الدولي يمنح اليمن 25 مليون دولار لتحسين الخدمات، AA، <http://bitly.ws/Ky8G>

¹³⁸ البنك الدولي يقدم تمويلاً إضافياً للمساعدة في استعادة الخدمات الحضرية باليمن، البنك الدولي، <http://bitly.ws/Kwm9>

C. Efforts of the League of Arab States and the African Union

The mere presence of Libya and Sudan within the African Union and the presence of the four countries (Libya, Sudan, Yemen and Syria) within the League of Arab States is considered one of the most important elements in supporting a solution to the crisis, where the presence of the four countries in larger regional entities helps to support the realization of the Arab countries of the importance of participating actively in supporting development and resolving the root crises in the conflict countries, because this is related to either the semi-collective delay or the collective push for the regional development wheel in the Arab world, as the Arab countries collectively act as a reciprocal network that affects each other.

D. Crisis Extremes as a Pressure Element

Despite crises act as as a very negative event, the exacerbation of crises in the four conflicting countries and the resulting exacerbation of a wide range of negative effects that include the destruction of property, loss of resources, and the resulting severe shock affecting the economic and social components of the four countries certainly contributed to enhancing the feeling of all segments of the population in conflict countries about the seriousness of the crisis, **creating a supportive local trend to the development efforts and expresses a willingness to participate in these efforts, whether through integration into government development projects** that consider local citizens as elements to push them or by supporting the efforts of government teams in completion of specific projects that require manpower from nationals of countries.

E. Percentage of Arab Youth in Conflict Countries

The percentage of young people in the Arab world reaches 32% of the total population, which means that all Arab countries and conflict countries in particular have a large human potential ready to be a driving force for development processes and efforts in conflict countries. However, the presence of youth human energies that have a modern vision keeping pace with the transformations of the modern era and the global social and political reality is one of the most important reasons for attracting foreign investments, driven by a vision aware of the importance of the efforts and energies of young people in the success of investments in light of the untapped resources and wealth possessed by the Arab conflict countries due to instability.

Despite the previous opportunities enjoyed by the Arab world countries, the outstanding challenges facing development work in the Arab conflict countries cannot be overlooked, which are:

A. Internal Divisions and Instability:

Political and security instability, the dominance of divisions, the multiplicity of parties to the conflict and their different political visions are considered two basic elements in the reality of the countries under study. They are two very important radical elements that influence the escalation of conflicts further, which leads to the continuation of the fact that development efforts are frozen and paralyzed in light of the continuation of the conflict. However, the attempt to calm divisions within conflict countries would contribute to reaching a national agreement that is aware of the importance of resuming development efforts for the benefit of the conflict communities.

B. Costly Conflict:

Years after the ongoing crises in a number of conflict countries, the reality was considered the biggest evidence of the protracted crises in the Arab countries, which is a very effective element in linking it to measuring the extent of the efforts made to support development efforts in those countries, as the protracted conflicts have cost the economies of countries millions of dollars as part of the losses of the conflict, creating economies dominated by states of attrition and fragility, which is closely related to weak government development efforts in light of the weak financial capabilities in the conflict countries.

C. Lack of Development Visions and Strategies

The situation of unorganized or studied work prevails in all the Arab countries in conflict, where the visions and reform strategies announced and circulated nationally to deal with one or more of the conflict crises are almost completely absent. This is what gradually transformed development efforts into emergent efforts that deal with a worsening or raging crisis in one of the sectors of the state in conflict. However, declaration, disclosure and consensus on a unified national vision would unify and organize development efforts to bring about the desired change.

D. Funding Decline in Light of the Ongoing Conflict:

Despite the extremely important efforts made by international partners and regional and global donors, which are considered one of the most important means of supporting and promoting development efforts within societies, the intersection of long periods of conflict and their extension for years with weak visions and Arab government management causes a decline in funding and investments alike, in light of the donors' vision of the slow development in the conflict societies, besides the refusal of capital to bear the economic risks resulting from instability in the conflict countries, which is often reflected as a decline in development efforts and steps. In 2021, the international community suspended its aid to Sudan and the cessation of the foreign debt relief process due to the army's procedures aimed at dissolving the transitional government in the country.

E. Lack of Real Reform Will:

The countries suffer from lax political will caused by the conflict, which is directly reflected in transforming development efforts into plans or statements that do not reach the stage of implementation on the ground, leaving a state of stagnation in development efforts in light of the failure to advance the plans that have been agreed upon and ratified towards implementation on the ground, which is a prevailing situation that dominates conflict countries, which is a prevailing situation that dominates conflict countries, not only because these countries suffer from tied efforts and dispersed resources because of the conflict that drains the state's resources and material capabilities in particular, but also because of the absence of a political vision capable of moving efforts towards the country's development priorities.

Axis III: Strategic Vision to Achieve the SDGs in the Arab Conflict Countries

First: Introduction to Structural and Legislative Reform within the Conflict Countries

The Arab countries are considered one of the richest regions of the world in natural and human resources, which similarly apply to countries that have been witnessing conflicts for years, such as Libya and Yemen. However, **the legislative structure is considered one of the shortcomings that hinder the efforts of the Arab conflict countries in their attempts to develop in light of the conflict and its effects.** In Libya, despite the almost complete transformation witnessed there, the investment laws



issued in 2010 and in force until now certainly affected the investment environment as one of the most prominent shortcomings in government performance, due to its significant impact on the investment climate in Libya as a country in dire need of investment projects that move the wheel of development in the various stagnant sectors in the country.

Syria tried to overcome this problem by reforming the legislative structure of some Syrian laws to include laws supporting investment in the field of solar energy, in line with the reality and the investment climate in Syria after 12 years of continuation of the conflict.

In this context, Maat recommends that the governments of the four conflicting countries work to **form a committee under the supervision of the legislative and judicial agency in the country, so that the founding committee is responsible for identifying inappropriate laws to support the transformations of the reality in the four countries, and putting forward proposals to be amended in line with the promotion and support of the development efforts that the governments of the four countries aim to bring about, which acts as an important legislative reform that will be reflected in opening serious paths to bring about development based on studied efforts and founded in a legal and legislative way.**

Second: Introduction to Working on National Plans and Strategies

Perhaps the biggest problem that is faced when measuring the progress or the development efforts made within the framework of supporting the implementation of the five development goals under study is the weakness of the national strategies and national plans that should act as guiding and organizing framework for the efforts made with the aim of supporting their achievement. This transforms all development efforts made in conflict-affected countries to efforts made without preliminary studies of the priorities related to development work.

The State of Sudan's efforts in the field of providing sanitation services are considered one of the most prominent examples in this regard. Sudan directs the largest proportion of its efforts and financial resources to treat infected patients as a result of water pollution resulting from the debilitation of sewage networks, instead of directing such resources to repairing the networks, which is considered the first stage of the water pollution problem and subsequent exacerbation of disease.



In this context, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights seizes this opportunity to recommend the Arab governments witnessing conflict (Syria, Libya, Sudan, Yemen) to quickly unify governmental and national efforts to come up with well-studied national strategies and plans to direct development efforts towards achieving the five SDGs under consideration in this study.

Third: Entrance to Strengthening the Efforts of International and Regional Partners

The presence of international partners and donors within the framework of the development work in conflict countries is considered one of the main elements that favor promoting and strengthening development efforts, not only for their ability to define development work priorities and direct them towards the most underdeveloped sectors in conflict societies, but also for the ability of donors and international partners to maintain a parallel path in which all development efforts go hand in hand. However, the state of political instability and the failure of many crises to move towards a solution of the crisis in the near future is the matter that often makes international partners lose the interest in their work, and raises a question about the impact of these efforts in a tragic reality where no end of conflicts is inside.

In addition to the support provided by international development partners, investment companies with a profit perspective mainly have a fearful attitude towards investments in conflict countries, in light of the realization of the multiple risks surrounding investing in Arab countries that are witnessing conflicts that may lead to destruction of their investments.

In this regard, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights **recommends the governments of the four conflict countries to work to establish a national committee working on the field of researching opportunities for cooperation and partnership with active partners within their countries, in addition to working on ways to enhance the efforts of partners, investments and international development efforts within conflict societies.**

In addition, the national committees undertake the task of preparing **feasibility studies for donors and active partners, with the aim of clarifying the opportunities and outcomes of participating in development efforts within conflict societies, which represents a way to encourage those efforts, away from the current paths of economic concern on the ground.**



Fourth: Benefiting from the Efforts of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development

The Arab Forum is the main regional mechanism in the Arab world responsible for following up and reviewing the implementation of the sustainable development plan in the Arab region. The Forum brings together Arab governments and development stakeholders to discuss and track progress in the field of development, and track the latest developments and implementation mechanisms in approaching the specific development goals. According to the 2030 Agenda, the Forum also issues an annual report that includes the messages emanating from the regional dialogue that was involved in the process of implementing development plans in the Arab region.

In this context, Maat recommends the governments of the four conflict countries to take advantage of and take into account the efforts and outputs of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development, which focus on discussing and reviewing development efforts in the region, in addition to efforts to discuss solutions policies on a number of different issues. Maat also recommends state governments to maintaining national participation in the voluntary national review mechanism with the aim of helping the Forum Committee to obtain a clear and credible picture of the current situation in conflict countries and the extent of progress or delay in their development paths, which helps to take necessary steps and decisions to support future development efforts, policies and strategies for handling crises in countries of dispute.

Fifth: Strengthening Political and Developmental Will within Conflict Countries

In 2021, the State of Sudan witnessed positive movements at the level of planning in the energy sector; developed a strategy revealing the state's tendency to support the energy sector achieving increase from zero in 2020 to 200mw in 2023, throughout the country. However, 2023 revealed the continuation of the energy crisis in Sudan as well as the faltering development efforts announced in 2021. The same scenario was seen in the water sector, which is considered one of the most vulnerable sectors in Sudan. The Sudanese government developed a 10-year strategy in 2021 to improve access to clean water; however, two years later and after the outbreak of the internal fighting, the strategy has dramatically failed to meet its targets and the current situation shows absence of any reform plans to handle the water crisis.



Developed plans in conflict countries intersect with weak political will to drive development efforts in line with predetermined plans. In this context, **Maat recommends the League of Arab States to establish a regional mechanism in partnership with the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development, so that the mechanism assumes responsibility for providing logistical and advisory support to the governments of the conflict countries, while facilitating ways to promote and achieve the development plans and strategies announced by the countries.**
